

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of claims in this application.

1-27. (Canceled)

28. (Withdrawn) A system for monitoring player financial transactions in a gaming environment for tracking player losses and winnings, comprising:

a plurality of gaming devices; and

a financial transaction host, the financial transaction host in communication with each of said plurality of gaming devices via a communication network, said financial transaction host including memory for storing at least one data file corresponding to a player and identifiable with a player identification, said at least one data file including financial information including at least monetary amounts associated with the player for use in playing one or more of said plurality of gaming devices,

wherein the financial host is configured to:

(a) determine an amount of a wager made by the player at one or more of the plurality of gaming devices;

(b) place a limit on an amount won from the wager;

(c) determine an amount won from the wager and compare the amount won to the limit on the amount won; and

(d) if the amount won exceeds the limit, prevent the player from continuing to play at the machine where the wager was made and other of the plurality of gaming machines in communication with the financial host over the communication network.

29. (Withdrawn) The system in accordance with claim 1 including at least one player identification input device for accepting said player identification.

30. (Withdrawn) The system in accordance with claim 8 wherein said at least one player identification input device comprises a card reader.

31. (Withdrawn) A method of monitoring and controlling player financial activities in a gaming environment in which a player may play one or more games, comprising:

generating a financial account corresponding to a player, said account represented by at least one data file, said at least one data file adapted to contain financial information; storing financial information regarding monetary amounts belonging to a player which may be used to play said one or more games;

automatically creating a data file for the player at a financial transaction host if there is no data file associated with the player, wherein the data file is matched with the player using a unique identifier associated with a remote financial institution;

determining an amount of a wager made by the player at one or more of the plurality of gaming devices;

receiving input specifying a threshold win amount limit, above which subsequent play should be limited;

placing a limit on an amount won from the wager at the threshold win amount limit;

determining an amount won from the wager made;

comparing the amount won to the limit on the amount won; and

if the amount won exceeds the limit, preventing the player from continuing to play at the machine where the wager was made and other of the plurality of gaming machines in communication with the financial host.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, further comprising storing the threshold win amount limit in the data file at the financial transaction host.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the threshold win amount limit is specified as an absolute number.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the threshold win amount limit is specified relative to an amount wagered.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the threshold win amount limit comprises a cumulative win limit, and wherein if the amount won exceeds the cumulative win limit, the player is prevented from continuing to play.

36. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

generating, within a gaming system of a gaming entity, a personal account comprising a financial account corresponding to a player, ~~said the~~ personal account represented by at least one data file and being subject to direct access and control of the gaming entity, ~~said the~~ at least one data file adapted to contain financial information, ~~said the~~ gaming system of the gaming entity comprising a plurality of gaming terminals and a financial server in communication with each of ~~said the~~ plurality of gaming terminals via a communication network;

storing, on ~~said the~~ financial server, financial information regarding monetary amounts belonging to the player which may be used to play a game at one ~~[[or]]~~ of the plurality of gaming terminals, the financial information including a threshold win amount limit, above which subsequent play should be limited;

automatically creating a data file for the player at the financial server when there is no data file associated with the player, wherein the created data file is matched with the player using a unique identifier associated with a remote financial institution; and, with ~~said the~~ financial server:

~~permitting a performing, upon a request of the~~ player, ~~the request being made~~ from at least one of the plurality of gaming terminals, ~~to request~~ at least one of the following actions: combine player personal accounts, open a new player personal account, and close out an existing player personal account;

storing financial information regarding monetary amounts expended by ~~[[a]] the~~ player in playing ~~said the~~ one or more games;

determining player loss from ~~said the~~ financial information;

determining an amount won from ~~said the~~ financial information;

comparing the amount won to the threshold win amount limit;

preventing ~~said the~~ player from utilizing monetary amounts associated with ~~said the~~ account to play ~~said the~~ one or more games for at least a period of

time [[if]] when either (i) ~~said~~ the determined player loss meets certain criteria or
if (ii) the amount won exceeds the threshold win amount limit.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising storing the threshold win amount limit in the at least one data file at the financial transaction host.

38. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the threshold win amount limit is specified as an absolute number.

39. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the threshold win amount limit is specified relative to an amount wagered.

40. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the threshold win amount limit comprises a cumulative win limit, and wherein if the amount won exceeds the cumulative win limit, the player is prevented from continuing to play.